



STATE ADMINISTRATION

MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE

Print No. 4

Date LINDA McCULLOCH 3/11/15

Bill No. HB 198

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HB 198: Candidate Titles on Ballots
Senate State Administration, Rm 333
March 11, 2015 @ 3:00 p.m.
Secretary of State Linda McCulloch's Testimony

- Good afternoon Madam. Chair, members of the committee. For the record, I am Linda McCulloch, Montana Secretary of State.
- I support House Bill 198, which would prohibit listing a person's title on the ballot. This has been the official policy of the Secretary of State's office.
- Although current statute does not expressly prohibit the use of titles, 13-12-205 MCA says "...candidates' names must be arranged alphabetically on the ballot....". Black's Law Dictionary defines "name" as "a word or phrase identifying or designating a person or thing and distinguishing that person or thing from others".
- A title does not identify or designate a person or distinguish a person from others, nor is a title part of a person's name, and it is under this premise that the Secretary of State has not allowed titles on ballots.
- Although this has been the policy, it is nice to have it specified in law. Thank you Representative Regier for bringing this bill.